

# Brazos 2020 Vision

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# Agenda

- Profile of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments and Brazos 2020 Vision
- Regional Demographics
- Need for Affordable High-Capacity Broadband Services in the Brazos Valley
- Rural Health Care Facilities in the Brazos Valley and the Proposed 2020 Vision Network
- Rural Health Care NPRM Concerns



# Brazos Valley Council of Governments

- The Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) is a multi-purpose organization of local governments originally designated in 1966.
- The BVCOG consists of seven counties in Central Texas: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Washington
- BVCOG currently manages 70 Federal and State grants to deliver services throughout the region such as Regional 911, Housing Choice Voucher Program, Economic Development, Workforce Development, Homeland Security, Area Agency on Aging.



# Brazos Valley Council of Governments Organizational Structure



# Profile of Brazos 2020 Vision

- Brazos 2020 Vision, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with the goal of providing affordable connectivity to **rural health care facilities** in the Brazos Valley
- Brazos 2020 Vision will lay the foundation for a broadband network serving all community anchors in the Brazos Valley



# Regional Demographics

- Total Population 302,731
  - 147,568 (49%) underserved
- 5,105 Square Miles
- Population Density 59.3/sq.mi.
  - U.S. Population Density 85.7/sq.mi.
- 90% of the area has a per capita income less than the U.S average. (2000 Census)

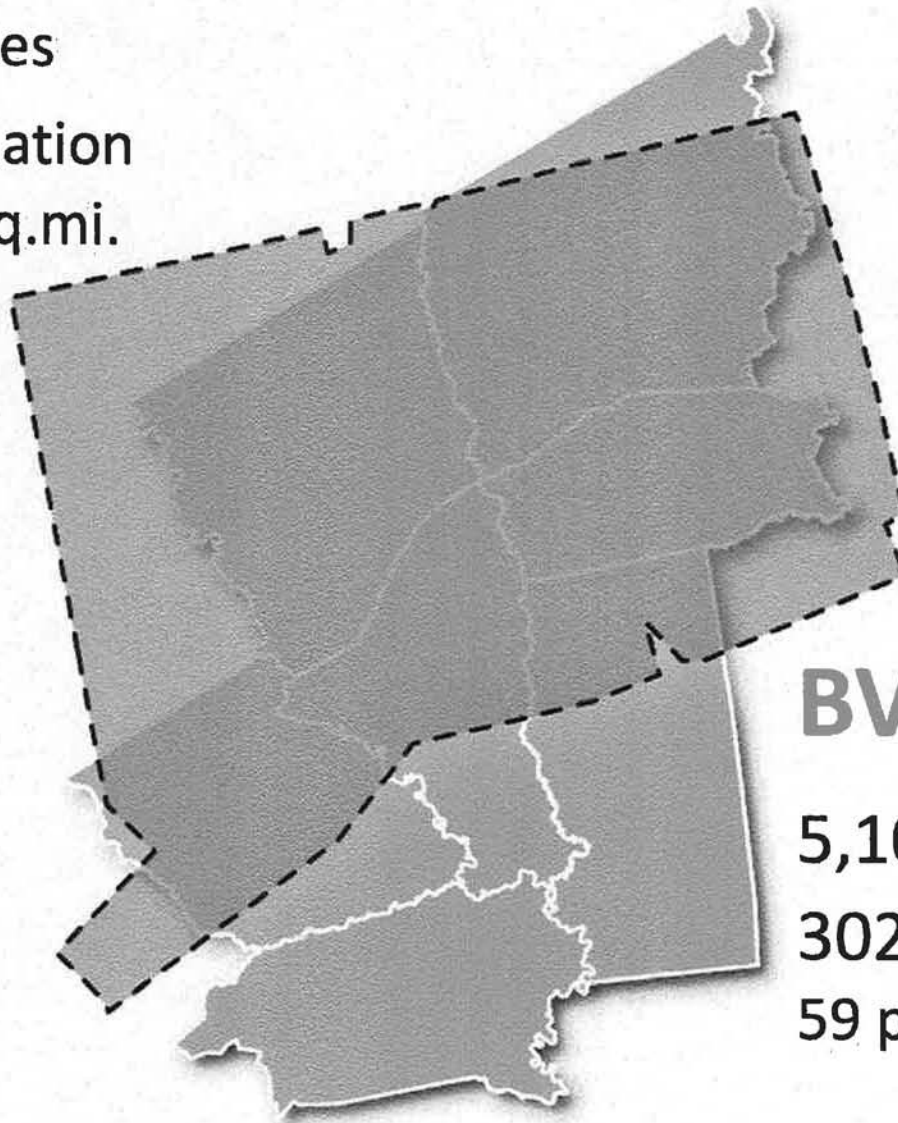


# Connecticut

5,543 square miles

3,574,097 population

645 persons per sq.mi.



## BVCOG

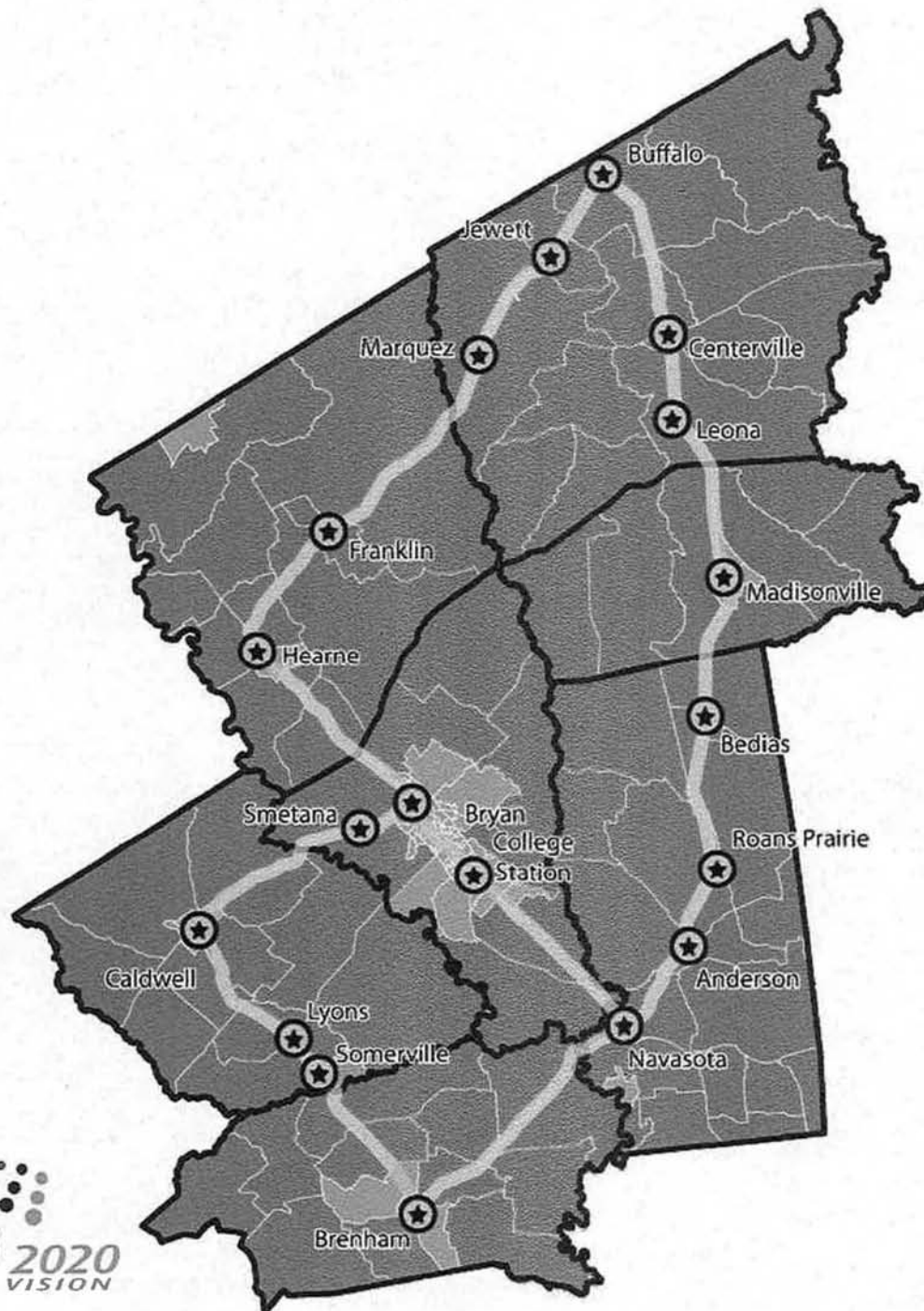
5,105 square miles

302,731 population

59 persons per sq.mi.



# Population Density



Block Group with  
population density  
less than 79.6 per  
square mile

Block Group with  
population density  
79.6 per square mile  
or greater

*\*95.4% of the Brazos Valley has a **lower** population density than the national average of 79.6 people per square mile.*



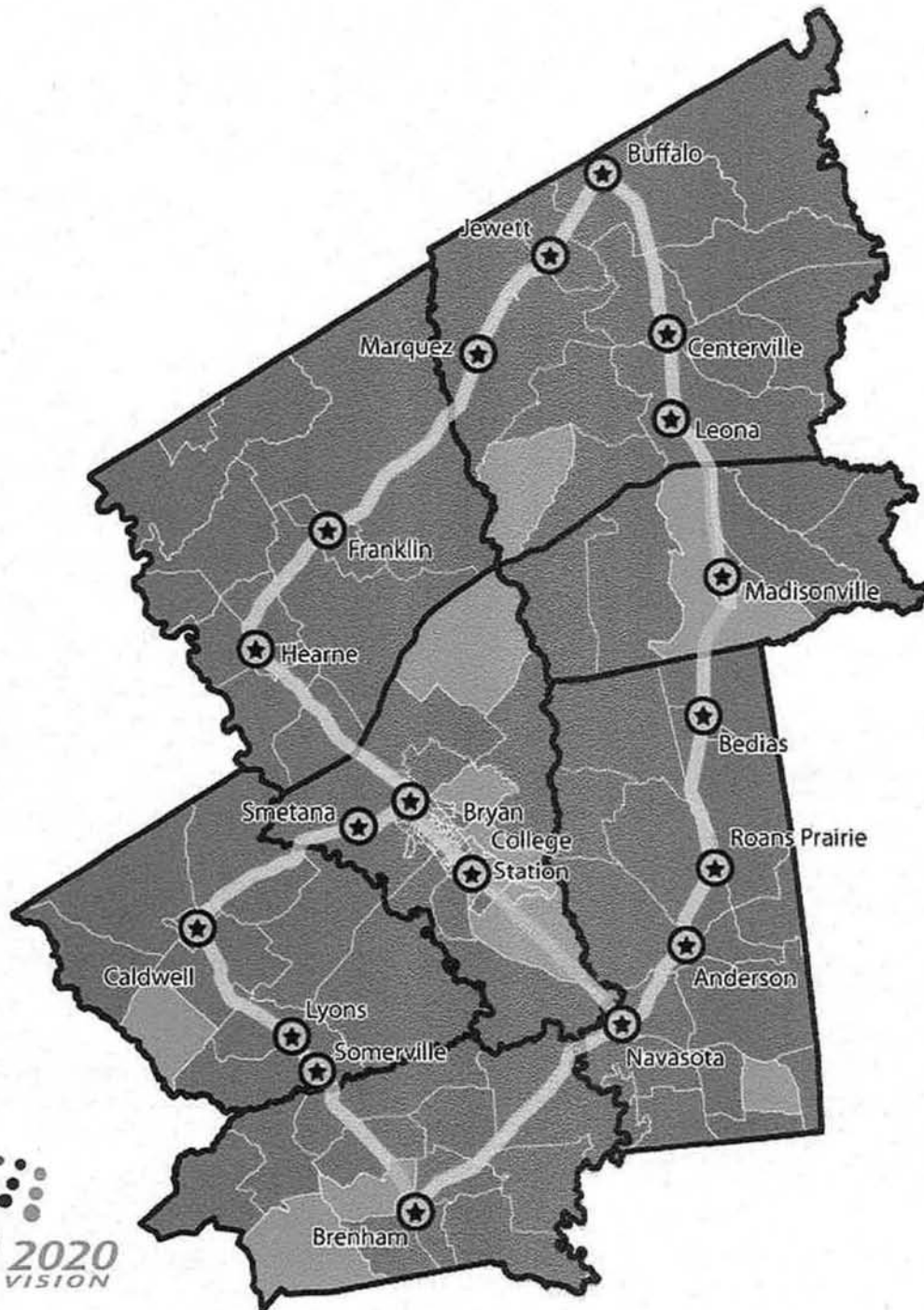


## Per Capita Income

Block Group with PCI less than \$21,587.

Block Group with PCI \$21,587 or higher.

*\*90% of the Brazos Valley has a per capita income **lower** than the national average of \$21,587.*









# **Rural Health Care Facilities in the Brazos Valley**

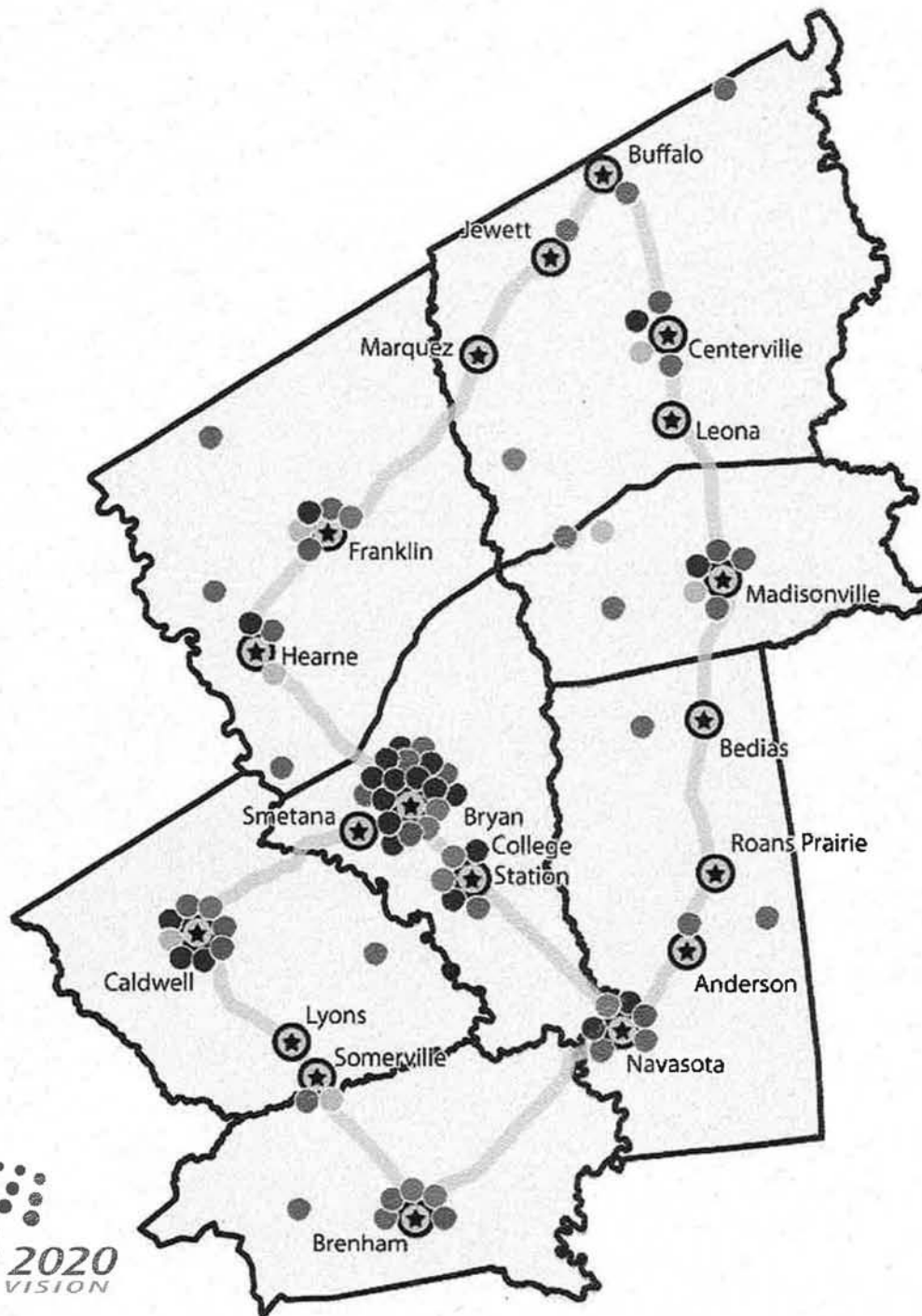
- 7 Hospitals
- 7 Clinics
- 10 Emergency Medical Service (EMS)
- 7 Jails or Prisons
- 23 ISDs (School Nurses) 102 Campuses
- 22 Other Medical Facilities



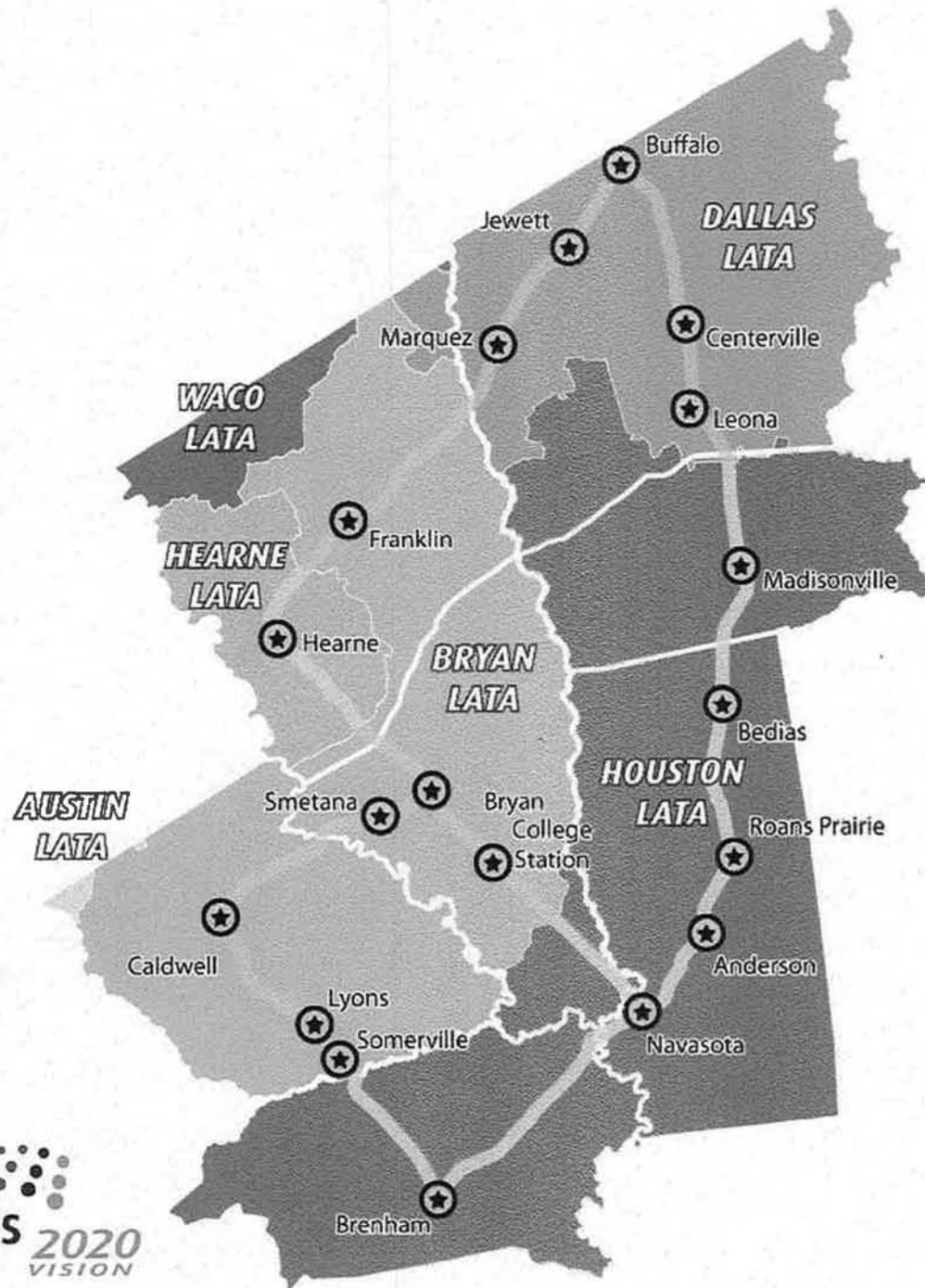
# Healthcare Providers

-  Hospital
-  Clinic
-  Emergency Medical (EMS)
-  Jail or Prison
-  School
-  Other Medical Facility

*\*65 of 76 medical facilities are on the Brazos 2020 Vision proposed fiber optic path.*



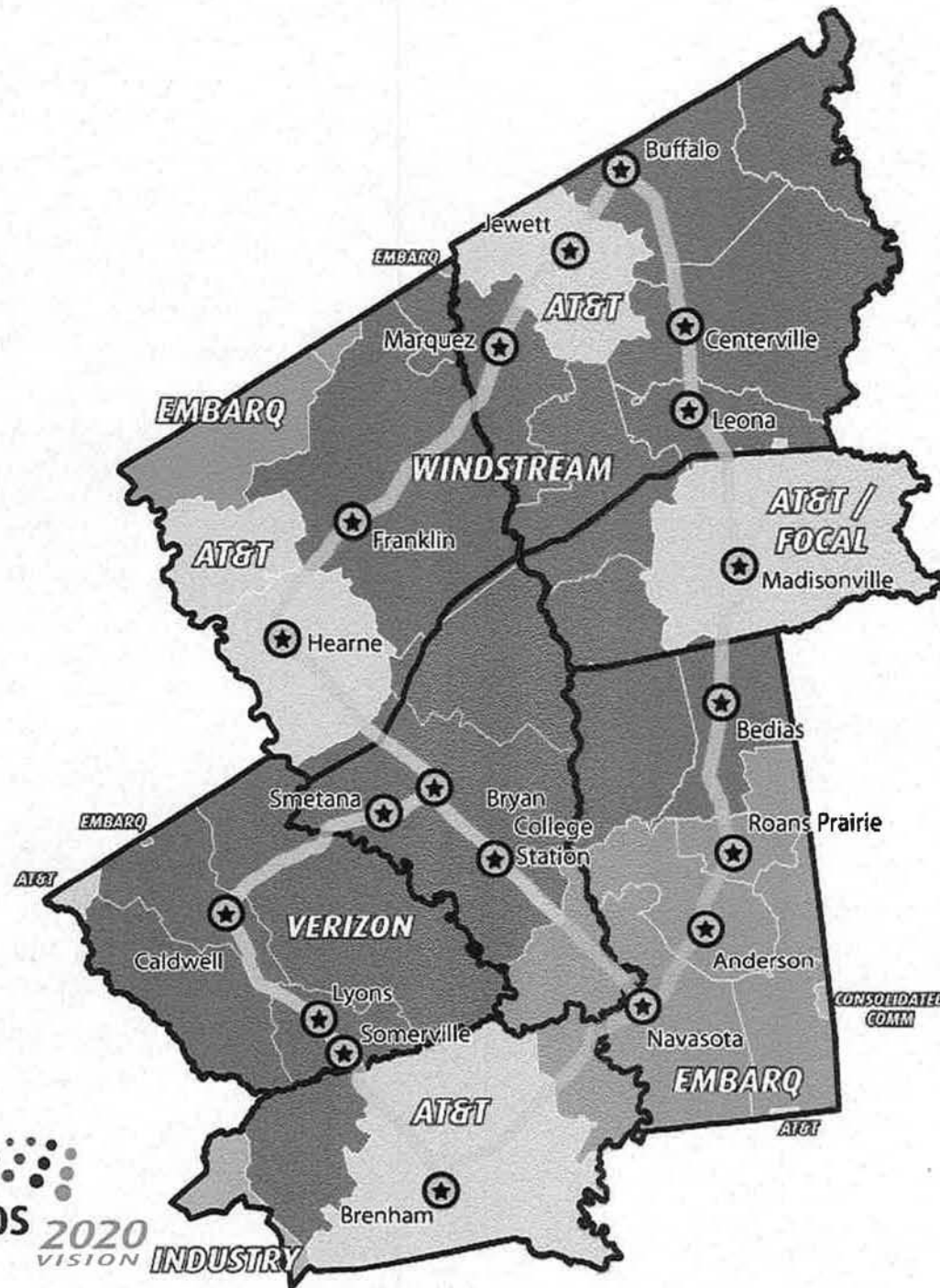
# LATA Distribution









- Austin LATA
- Bryan LATA
- Dallas LATA
- Hearne LATA
- Houston LATA
- Waco LATA



# TELCOM Distribution



-  AT&T
-  Consolidated
-  Embarq
-  Industry
-  Verizon
-  Windstream



# **Need for Affordable High-Capacity Broadband Services in Brazos Valley**

*Health care facilities and other CAls lack  
access to affordable high-speed  
broadband*

- Lack of competitive pricing
- Shortage of high capacity services
- LATA boundaries inhibiting investment;





# FCC Rural Health Care Program

- *Underutilized and in need of reform*
  - Complex rules; burdensome processes
  - Lack of available/affordable broadband facilities
  - Growing demand driven by economics and health care reform
  - Need support for access to private dedicated networks; not public Internet
- *Validated by recent ex partes*
  - National Rural Health Association
  - HHS ONC/THINC (Texas)
  - National Rural Health Resource Center





# RHC Reform Impacts

- *FCC should implement proposed RHC Broadband Infrastructure Funding of \$100 million per year*
  - Immediate deployment of health broadband is vitally needed in rural Texas:
    - T1s are all that is available throughout most of Brazos Valley;
    - Texas is currently the fastest growing state;
    - Data demands are growing exponentially.
  - CAF will not quickly facilitate an inter-LATA dedicated broadband network in the Brazos Valley



# Proposed RHC Health Infrastructure Fund

- *The value of investing in infrastructure*
  - Reduced need for endless subsidies
  - Shared facilities through excess capacity rules
  - Complement to CAF
  - Benefits for incumbent telcos:
    - Open competitive bidding processes;
    - Cost driven by sustainability, not profits
    - Will support telco efforts to provide 4/1 Internet broadband to more customers.



# Closing Thoughts

- Texas presents unique challenges: size, population density; legacy regulatory barriers
- Brazos Valley HCPs have immediate needs that can be addressed quickly through RHC reform; cannot wait for indirect effects of CAF
- BVCOG has plan and proven track record; unlike many pilot projects, will start quickly and finish promptly

